

W E S T V I R G I N I A

2006

JANUARY - DECEMBER

# Fishing

## Regulations Summary



[www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov)



## From the Director

Constituents, stakeholders, partners. These terms are used often to describe the relationship between the Division of Natural Resources and West Virginia anglers. A substantial change has occurred in this relationship during the past decade or so. Increasingly, we find ourselves as partners with anglers in cooperative efforts for fisheries conservation. I believe this is a positive development.

Fisheries management has evolved over the years. Along with this change, anglers have become more knowledgeable and sophisticated in their fishing techniques, and more aware of the important role they play in resource conservation and enhancement. The Division of Natural Resources depends on our angler partners for support of fisheries research, habitat improvements, and angler education and recruitment.

Working with individual anglers and organizations like B.A.S.S., Muskies Inc. and Trout Unlimited, the DNR is committed to improving fishing in West Virginia. Examples of these partnerships range from trout stream water quality restoration to aquatic vegetation establishment in reservoirs. Partnerships help ensure the success of these projects. I encourage each of you to be a part of these positive relationships. Take an active role in determining the future of fishing in West Virginia.

Frank Jezioro

Frank Jezioro, Director, *West Virginia Division of Natural Resources*

# District Offices

**Main Office - Charleston, WV 25305**

State Capitol Complex, Building 3

**Warmwater Management** - Bret Preston (304) 558-2771

**Law Enforcement -** Lt. Col. Dave Murphy (304) 558-2784

### District 1 - Farmington, WV 26571

1110 Railroad Street, P.O. Box 99 (3

(304) 825-6787

## Fish Management - Frank Jernejcic

**Law Enforcement** - Capt. Kaven Ransom

## District 2 - Romney, WV 26757

1 Depot Street

(304) 822-3551

## Fish Management - Jim Hedrick

**Law Enforcement** - Capt. Jerry Jenkins

### District 3

WV State Wildlife Center

P.O. Box 38 • French Creek, WV 26218

**Fish Management** - Kevin Yokum (304) 924-6211

**Law Enforcement** - Capt. Mike Pizzino (304) 637-0245

P.O. Box 67 • Elkins, WV 26241

### District 4 - Beckley, WV 25801

2006 Robert C. Byrd Drive

(304) 256-6947

## Fish Management - Mark Scott

**Law Enforcement** - Capt. Daniel Farley



## District 5

McClintic WMA

Rt. 1, Box 484 • Pt. Pleasant, WV 25550

**Fish Management** - Zack Brown (304) 675-0871

**Law Enforcement** - Capt. Steve Stewart      (304) 759-0703

696 Winfield Road • St. Albans, WV 25177

### District 6 - Parkersburg, WV 26101

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(304) 420-4550

## Fish Management - Scott Morrison

**Law Enforcement** - Capt. Tom Wasmer

## Operations Center - Elkins, WV 26241

Ward Road, P.O. Box 67

**Coldwater Management - Mike Shingleton (304) 637-0245**

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***This pamphlet is a summary of the applicable laws and regulations governing sport fishing in West Virginia. The West Virginia Code and the West Virginia Code of Rules contain the details of these laws and regulations. Both publications are available for review in the Director's Office and Division of Natural Resources District Offices. Copies of the official regulations may be obtained from the West Virginia Secretary of State. Year-round fishing is in effect unless otherwise noted.***

Cover Photo: David Fattaleh, WV Division of Tourism

**Joe Manchin III, Governor**  
*State of West Virginia*

**Frank Jezioro, Director**  
*Division of Natural Resources*

**Curtis I. Taylor, Chief**  
*Wildlife Resources*

**James D. Fields, Chief**  
*Law Enforcement Section*

## **Commissioners**

Jeffrey S. Bowers - *Sugar Grove*  
Twila S. Metheney - *Morgantown*  
David M. Milne - *Bruceton Mills*  
Jan Riffe - *Dawson*  
James C. Smith - *Elkview*  
Gus C. Svokas - *Weirton*  
Kenny Wilson - *Chapmanville*

## New for 2006

### Ohio River Regulations

**Blue Catfish:** 24-inch minimum size limit and two fish daily creel limit for blue catfish from the Ohio River - see page 4.

**Walleye:** 18-inch minimum size limit and two fish daily creel limit for walleye from the Ohio River - see page 6.

### Trout

**Daily creel limit:** six trout on all waters, except designated special regulation areas - see pages 2 and 5-6.

### Fishing Lakes

**Wallback and Pedlar Wildlife Management Areas:** these lakes are under construction or renovation and will not be open to fishing until announced by the WVDNR.




#### **Landowner - Sportsmen Relations**


West Virginia anglers are indebted to local landowners throughout the state. Without their consent and generosity, fishing would be restricted to state and federal lands. The opportunity for continued use of private property is largely dependent upon anglers' attitudes and conduct. Most stream closures are the result of disrespect for private property.

#### **Statement of Policy Relative to Public Use of Facilities**

It is the policy of the Division of Natural Resources to provide its facilities, accommodations, services and programs to all persons. Complaints should be mailed to: Director, Division of Natural Resources, State Capitol Complex, Charleston, WV 25305, or to the Office of Human Resources, U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, MA 01035-9589. The Division of Natural Resources is an equal opportunity employer.

# Regulations - Summary

Species	Daily Creel Limit	Minimum Size	Possession Limit	*Special Regulations
<b>Black Bass</b> <i>Smallmouth, Largemouth, and Spotted</i>	6* (in aggregate)	None*	12* (in aggregate)	<b>Jennings Randolph Lake:</b> 12-inch minimum size limit, daily creel limit 5, and possession limit 10. <i>See <b>Special Area Regulations</b> for additional restrictions.</i> 
<b>Trout</b> <i>Rainbow, Golden, Brook and Brown</i>	6* (in aggregate)	None	12* (in aggregate)	<b>Jennings Randolph Lake:</b> Daily creel limit 5, and possession limit 5. <i>See <b>Special Area Regulations</b> for additional restrictions.</i> 
<b>Muskellunge</b>	2*	30 inches	4*	<b>Jennings Randolph Lake:</b> 36-inch minimum size limit, daily creel limit 1, and possession limit 1 for muskellunge in aggregate with Tiger Musky. <i>See <b>Special Area Regulations</b> for additional restrictions.</i> 
<b>Tiger Musky</b>	2*	28 inches	4*	
<b>Northern Pike</b>	2	28 inches	4	<b>Jennings Randolph Lake:</b> 30-inch minimum size limit, daily creel limit 2, and possession limit 2. 
<b>Hybrid Striped Bass</b>	4*	15 inches*	8*	<b>Bluestone Lake and all rivers:</b> Daily creel limit 4 and possession limit 8 applies to fish 15 inches or larger in aggregate with striped and white bass. No restrictions for these fish under 15 inches. <b>Mt. Storm, Beech Fork, East Lynn and R.D. Bailey:</b> 15-inch minimum size limit.
<b>Striped Bass</b>	4*	None*	8*	<b>Bluestone Lake and all rivers:</b> Daily creel limit 4 and possession limit 8 applies to fish 15 inches or larger in aggregate with hybrid striped, striped, and white bass. No restrictions for these fish under 15 inches.
<b>White Bass</b>				
<b>Paddlefish</b>	0	0	0	<b>All fish must be returned to the water immediately.</b>
<b>Shovelnose Sturgeon</b>				
<b>Lake Sturgeon</b>				
<b>Sauger</b>	Lakes - 8 Rivers - 10* (in aggregate)	None*	Lakes - 16 Rivers - 20 (in aggregate)	<b>Jennings Randolph Lake:</b> 15-inch minimum size limit, daily creel limit 5, and possession limit 5 for walleye. <b>Ohio River:</b> 18-inch minimum size limit and daily creel limit 2 for walleye.
<b>Saugeye</b>				
<b>Walleye</b>				
<b>Blue Catfish</b>	2*	24 inches*		<b>Ohio River:</b> 24-inch minimum size limit and daily creel limit 2.
<b>Channel Catfish</b>	None*	None	None*	<b>In state-managed impoundments:</b> Daily creel limit 4, possession limit 16. Does not apply to Mt. Storm, Stonecoal and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lakes. <i>See <b>Public Fishing Lakes and Ponds Chart</b>.</i> 
<b>All Others</b>	None	None	None	<b>Jennings Randolph Lake:</b> 14-inch minimum size limit, daily creel limit 5, and possession limit 5 for chain pickerel. 
<b>Frogs</b>	10	None	20	<b>Season:</b> 9 p.m. DST, June 17 to midnight July 31. <b>Big Sandy and Tug Fork rivers bordering Kentucky Season:</b> Noon, May 19 to midnight, October 31.



Check the 2006 Maryland Fishing Regulations for special regulations on the North Branch of the Potomac and Potomac rivers.



Check the 2006 Maryland Fishing Regulations for special regulations on the North Branch of the Potomac and Potomac rivers.

# Special Areas - Regulations

## Bass

### Catch-and-Release

1. All black bass (smallmouth, spotted and largemouth) caught must be returned to the water at once.
2. No black bass shall be in the angler's possession (creel limit 0) while fishing in designated catch-and-release lakes and streams.
3. To release a deeply hooked or gill-hooked fish, the line should be cut 5 to 6 inches above the lure.

#### Lakes

Dunkard Fork, Elk Fork, Kimsey Run, Millers Fork Pond, North Bend, O'Brien, Rockhouse, Stonewall Jackson, Tuckahoe, Upper Mud and Woodrum.

#### Streams

**New River - Fayette, Raleigh and Summers counties**  
12-mile section from the I-64 bridge at Sandstone downstream to NPS Grandview Sandbar access site near Quinnimont. Access by state Route 41 at Quinnimont and state Route 20 at Sandstone.

#### South Branch of Potomac River - Hardy and Hampshire counties

**Area 1** 8-mile section in Hardy County from 3 miles east of Petersburg at the routes 28, 55 and 220 bridge (Petersburg Gap bridge) downstream to the county Route 13 bridge (Fisher bridge).

**Area 2** 9.5-mile section in Hampshire County from the routes 28 and 50 bridge (Romney bridge) downstream to the state Route 28 bridge (Blue Beach bridge).

### Handling and Release Procedures

When practicing catch-and-release fishing, survival of the released fish can be greatly enhanced by following these simple guidelines.

1. Time is important - play and release the fish as quickly as possible to reduce unnecessary stress.
2. Keep the fish in the water as much as possible and use a pair of forceps or needle-nosed pliers to remove the hook.
3. Handle the fish with bare, wet hands. Do not squeeze the fish, put your fingers in the eyes or gills, or cause scale loss.
4. When releasing the fish, hold it gently in the water until the fish is ready to swim off on its own.

Photo: Kevin Yokum, WVDNR - Wildlife Resources

### Minimum Size Limit

1. All black bass (smallmouth, spotted and largemouth) under 12 inches long must be returned to the water at once.
2. Measure fish from the tip of snout to the end of tail. See Measuring Fish on page 8.
3. To release a deeply hooked or gill-hooked fish, cut the line 5 to 6 inches above the lure.

#### Lakes

Barboursville, Beech Fork, Chief Logan, Conaway Run, and South Mill Creek

#### Streams

**Wheeling Creek - Marshall and Ohio counties**  
Entire length.

### Slot Limit

#### Lakes

1. All black bass (smallmouth, spotted and largemouth) from 12 to 16 inches long must be returned to the water at once.
2. All black bass harvested must be in accordance with the daily creel limit regulation.
3. To release a deeply hooked or gill-hooked fish, cut the line 5 to 6 inches above the lure.

#### East Lynn

#### Streams

1. All black bass (smallmouth, spotted and largemouth) from 12 to 20 inches long must be returned to the water at once.
2. Daily creel limit of one black bass over 20 inches caught within the slot limit area. Black bass under 12 inches may be harvested. All black bass harvested must be in accordance with the daily creel limit regulation.
3. To release a deeply hooked or gill-hooked fish, cut the line 5 to 6 inches above the lure.

#### Greenbrier River - Greenbrier County

6-mile section beginning at the U.S. Route 60 bridge near Caldwell extending downstream to the U.S. Route 219 bridge at Ronceverte.





# Regulations - Special Areas

## Blue Catfish

### Minimum Size Limit

1. All blue catfish under 24 inches long must be returned to the water at once.
2. Measure fish from the tip of snout to the end of tail. See *Measuring Fish* on page 8.
3. To release a deeply hooked or gill-hooked fish, cut line 5 to 6 inches above the lure.

**Ohio River**

## Muskellunge

### Catch-and-Release

#### Streams

1. All muskellunge caught must be returned to the water at once.
2. No muskellunge shall be in the angler's possession while on stream sections designated as catch-and-release streams.

#### **Buckhannon River - Upshur County**

6.5-mile section beginning at the City of Buckhannon's water supply dam and continuing upstream to the first riffle. Included in this area is the section of French Creek from its mouth to the first riffle. The entire stream section is commonly referred to as Buckhannon Pool.

#### **Middle Island Creek - Tyler County**

6-mile section beginning at the state Route 18 bridge near Centerville and continuing downstream to the low water bridge near the Jug WMA. Included in this area are sections of Indian Creek and McElroy Creek from their mouth to their first riffle.

### Minimum Size Limit

#### Lakes

1. All muskellunge under 40 inches long must be returned to the water at once.
2. Measure fish from the tip of snout to the end of tail. See *Measuring Fish* on page 8.
3. To release a deeply hooked or gill-hooked fish, cut the line 5 to 6 inches above the lure.

**North Bend Lake**

## Children and Class Q Handicap Fishing Areas

1. Area is managed under special regulations March through May.
2. During this period fishing is restricted to children 10 years of age or under and to handicapped individuals holding a Class Q license.
3. Fishing permitted during daylight hours only.
4. Creel limit is four trout.
5. Another person may assist with baiting hooks and removing fish.

#### **Coonskin Park Pond - Kanawha County**

2.7-acre pond in Coonskin Park. Access by state Route 114 and county Route 51/2.

#### **Handley Pond - Pocahontas County**

5-acre pond on the Handley WMA. Access by county routes 17 and 17/1 which intersect U.S. Route 219 at Edray north of Marlinton.

#### **Kanawha State Forest Pond - Kanawha County**

1-acre pond in Kanawha State Forest. Access by county Route 42 off county Route 23.

#### **Logan County Airport Pond**

1-acre pond. Access by county Route 119/8 off state Route 17.

#### **Millers Fork Pond - Wayne County**

5-acre pond on the Beech Fork Lake WMA. Access by county Route 22 off county Route 17.

#### **Raleigh County Airport Pond**

1-acre pond at the entrance to the Raleigh County Airport. Access by county Route 9/9 off I-64 at Airport Exit 125-B.

#### **Underwood Lake - Cabell County**

1-acre pond on Huntington YMCA property. Access by state Route 2.

#### **Westover Park Pond - Monongalia County**

1-acre pond located at the Westover Park just off U.S. Route 19 approximately .5 mile east of I-79 Westover exit.

#### **Wood Pond - Ohio County**

.5-acre pond in the Bear Rocks Lake WMA. Access by county Route 41/6.

#### **Woodbine Area of the Cranberry River - Nicholas County**

300-yard section of the Cranberry River at the U.S. Forest Service Woodbine Recreation Area. Access by National Forest Route 76 from Richwood.

## Free Fishing Days

**June 10 - 11, 2006**



## Trout

### Catch-and-Release

#### Streams

1. Fishing permitted during daylight hours only.
2. Only artificial flies and lures made of metal, wood, feathers, hair, or synthetic material may be used or possessed on "catch-and-release" trout streams during the catch-and-release season.
3. Multiple hook lures must have barbless hooks.
4. Single hook lures may have barbed hooks.
5. To release a deeply hooked or gill-hooked fish, the leader should be cut 5 to 6 inches above the lure.
6. All trout caught must be returned to the water at once.
7. No trout shall be in the angler's possession while on stream sections designated as catch-and-release streams.

***Powerbait is considered to be illegal under this section and may not be used or possessed on catch-and-release streams.***

#### **Back Fork of Elk River - Webster County**

4-mile section beginning 2 miles upstream from Webster Springs and extending upstream. Access by county routes 24 and 24/3.

#### **Blackwater River - Tucker County**

3.5-mile section from the county Route 29/1 bridge in Blackwater Falls State Park downstream to the mouth of the North Fork.

#### **Clear Fork of the Guyandotte River - Wyoming County**

1-mile section from the R.D. Bailey Wildlife Management Area manager's residence downstream to the state Route 6 bridge. Season: October 1 - May 31. General regulations apply June 1 - September 30.

#### **Cranberry River - Webster, Pocahontas and Nicholas counties**

1. 4.3-mile section from the junction of the North and South forks downstream to the low water bridge at Dogway Fork. Access by foot on National Forest Route 76 from the Cranberry Glades parking area.
2. Nicholas County - 1.2-mile section from the Woodbine Recreation Area downstream to Camp Splinter (Jakeman Run). Access by National Forest Route 76 from Richwood.

#### **Elk River - Randolph County**

2-mile section from the Elk Springs Campground downstream to Rose Run bridge. Access by county Route 49 off state Route 15 about 4 miles west of Valley Head.

#### **Glade Creek of New River - Raleigh County**

3-mile section from the mouth upstream to the National Park Service foot bridge. Access by Glade Creek Road off state Route 41.

#### **Middle Wheeling Creek - Ohio County**

1.2-mile section from just above the upper limits of Middle Wheeling Creek Lake upstream to mouth of Gillespie Run. Access by county Route 39/6. Season: October 1 - May 31. General regulations apply June 1 - September 30.

#### **North Branch of Potomac River - Grant and Mineral counties**

See the 2006 Maryland Fishing Regulations for special regulations on the North Branch of the Potomac and Potomac Rivers.

#### **North Fork of Cherry River - Nicholas County**

1.8-mile section extending upstream from Richwood's water supply dam to first state Route 39 bridge. Access by state Route 39.

#### **North Fork of Cranberry River - Pocahontas County**

.25-mile section from the mouth upstream to the limestone treatment dam. Access by foot on National Forest Route 76.

#### **North Fork of the South Branch - Pendleton County**

.75-mile section at the mouth of Seneca Creek near Seneca Rocks Visitors Center. Access by county Route 28/3 at junction of state Route 28 and U.S. Route 33 at Seneca Rocks.

#### **Paint Creek - Fayette County**

2-mile section from mouth of Skitter Creek upstream to mouth of Milburn Creek. Access is by county Route 15.

#### **Shavers Fork of Cheat River - Randolph County**

5.5-mile section in Monongahela National Forest, north of U. S. Route 250, from the mouth of Whitmeadow Run downstream to the mouth of McGee Run. Access by National Forest Route 92, which intersects U.S. Route 250 four miles west of Cheat Bridge.

#### **Slatyfork section of Elk River - Pocahontas County**

4.6-mile section from the junction of Big Spring and Old Field forks downstream to the mouth of Dry Branch including Props Run and Big Run. Access by foot from county routes 219/2 on the north and 219/12 on the south.

#### **South Branch of the Potomac River - Pendleton County**

1-mile section beginning 2 miles below U.S. Route 220 at Eagle Rock and extending downstream. Access by county Route 2.

#### **Williams River - Pocahontas County**

2-mile section beginning 2 miles below Tea Creek and extending downstream. Access by National Forest Route 86.

# Regulations - Special Areas

## Trout continued

### Fly-fishing-Only

#### Streams

1. Fishing permitted during daylight hours only.
2. Only artificial flies and streamers may be used or in possession on any of the fly-fishing-only streams.
3. Only conventional fly-fishing tackle may be used. Open-face and closed-face spinning or spincast reels are prohibited.
4. All fish caught must be returned to water at once.
5. No trout shall be in the angler's possession while on stream sections designated as fly-fishing-only streams.

#### **Buffalo Creek of New River - Fayette County**

Main stream and all tributaries of Buffalo Creek. Access by foot from county Route 25.

#### **Dogway Fork of the Cranberry - Webster, Pocahontas and Greenbrier counties**

Main stream and all tributaries of Dogway Fork. Access by foot on National Forest Route 78.

#### **Milligan Creek - Greenbrier County**

Marked area about 1 mile north of U.S. Route 60 from the county Route 60/15 bridge extending downstream about .33 mile to a fence crossing.

#### **Red Run of Dry Fork - Tucker County**

Main stream and all tributaries of Red Run. Access by foot from state Route 72 and National Forest Route 13.

#### **Second Creek - Greenbrier and Monroe counties**

Marked 1.5-mile section on the Monroe/Greenbrier county line at Rodgers Mill.

#### **Thorn Creek - Pendleton County**

Marked .5-mile section beginning approximately 3 miles above the mouth. Access is by county Route 20.

## Walleye

### Minimum Size Limit

1. All walleye under 18 inches long must be returned to the water at once.
2. Measure fish from the tip of snout to the end of tail. See Measuring Fish on page 8.
3. To release a deeply hooked or gill-hooked fish, cut the line 5 to 6 inches above the lure.

#### **Ohio River**

## Reciprocal Fishing

### Ohio River

Ohio residents who carry fishing licenses valid in Ohio may fish on the Ohio River and its embayments or from the West Virginia banks of the Ohio River and embayments without obtaining West Virginia license.

West Virginia residents who carry fishing licenses valid in West Virginia may fish on Ohio River embayments in Ohio or from the Ohio banks of the Ohio River and embayments without obtaining an Ohio license.

West Virginia fishing laws and regulations must be followed when fishing on the Ohio River mainstream and on embayments or tributaries that are within the boundaries of West Virginia.

Ohio fishing laws and Ohio River fishing regulations for the Eastern Unit, which cover the West Virginia /Ohio border, must be followed while fishing on embayments or tributaries that are within the boundaries of Ohio.

The embayment and tributary reciprocal boundaries for each state are listed in the Waterfowl Hunting and Fishing on the Ohio River brochure available from West Virginia DNR offices, and online at [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov). Ohio and West Virginia anglers may travel and fish embayments and tributaries to the landmark locations listed in the brochure. These locations are also defined by distance from the mouth of the tributary and GPS coordinates for convenience.

### Potomac River

West Virginia residents who possess valid West Virginia fishing licenses may fish by angling in the waters of the Potomac River including the North Branch and Jennings Randolph Lake which are opposite both the West Virginia and the Maryland shores, and they may fish from the Maryland shore, without obtaining a Maryland fishing license, subject, however, to all other Maryland laws, rules and regulations applicable to fishing.

Maryland residents who possess valid Maryland fishing licenses may fish by angling in the waters of Jennings Randolph Lake which are opposite both the Maryland and West Virginia shores, and they may fish from the West Virginia shore of the Potomac River, including the North Branch and Jennings Randolph Lake without obtaining a West Virginia fishing license, subject, however, to all other West Virginia fishing laws, rules and regulations applicable to fishing. This agreement is limited to the Potomac River including the North Branch and Jennings Randolph Lake and does not extend to any of their tributaries.

The State of Maryland has joint law enforcement jurisdiction on Jennings Randolph Lake.



# Other Methods of Fishing - Regulations

Except as authorized below, it is illegal to take fish by any means other than by rod, line and hooks.

## It is illegal to:

- use a firearm, crossbow, dynamite or any like explosive, or a poisonous mixture placed in the water for the purpose of killing or taking fish, frogs, aquatic turtles or other forms of aquatic life.
- fish with more than two (2) lines or poles in an impoundment stocked with trout by the DNR from January 1 - May 31.

## Bow Fishing

Carp may be taken by bow year-round; other nongame fish may be taken by bow during all months of the year except May and June. Residents must have a valid fishing license and nonresidents must have a valid hunting license in order to fish using a bow. All persons using a bow to fish must observe all applicable fishing regulations.

## It is illegal to:

- use an arrow having an explosive head or shaft or an arrow dipped in or smeared with poison or other chemicals.

## Dipping

Dipping for nongame fish is legal from February 1 to midnight April 30 with a valid WV fishing license. A dip net may not exceed 36 square feet in overall area, and its mesh may not be smaller than one-fourth (1/4) inch.

## Gigging, Snagging and Snaring

Suckers, carp, fallfish and creek chubs may be taken by snaring year-round. Other nongame fish, turtles and eels may be taken by gigging, snagging, or snaring from January 1 - May 15 and from July 15 - December 31, except that snagging and gigging shall be prohibited within 100 feet of all U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Locks and Dams and their appurtenances. Snagging of game fish is prohibited.

## Regulations Open House

### March 20, 2006

Fairmont, Lewisburg, Martinsburg, Milton, Spencer and Summersville

### March 21, 2006

Buckhannon, Glen Dale, Logan, Moorefield, Parkersburg, and Twin Falls State Park

## Hatchery Fish Removal

### It is illegal to:

- take fish, frogs, aquatic turtles, or other aquatic life from a state fish hatchery.

## Ice Fishing

Holes cut for ice fishing must be no larger than 10 inches in diameter. This applies to public waters where ice fishing is allowed.

## Seining for Minnows/Minnow Traps

Game fish may not be seined or trapped. A seine may be used to obtain minnows for use as bait provided the seine is not longer than six feet nor deeper than four feet. A thrownet may be used provided the diameter is no larger than six feet and mesh size no larger than three-eighths (3/8) inch. Minnow traps may be used provided the openings are not larger than one inch in diameter. A person may have in his possession no more than 50 minnows nor more than a total of 100 aquatic animal life unless obtained from a licensed dealer and a bill of sale is provided. Possession of mussels or any parts thereof is prohibited. A valid WV fishing license is needed to collect minnows and other aquatic life.

## Trotlines and Droplines

Trotlines and droplines must be attached to the bank or a tree thereon, must bear an identification tag that is legible and waterproof, and must be attended every 24 hours. Wire or cable lines and hooks with more than one point are prohibited.

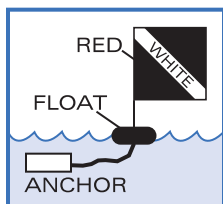
### It is illegal to:

- fish with trotlines and droplines in state-managed impoundments except Stonecoal, Hawks Nest, Mt. Storm and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lakes. (See chart on page 9 for state-managed lakes.)
- attach a trotline to public piers and docks or within 50 feet of dam appurtenances.
- use droplines on the Elk River, Hughes River, Little Kanawha River, Middle Island Creek, and South Fork of Hughes River.
- jug fish.

# Regulations - Other Methods of Fishing

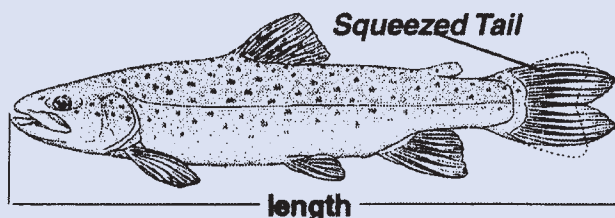
## Spearfishing and Diving

1. Nongame fish may be taken by spearfishing from July 1 - September 30 during daylight hours only.
2. Spearfishing is prohibited on the following:
  - a. Elk River, from Sutton Dam downstream to the U.S. Route 19 bridge at Sutton;
  - b. New River, from Bluestone Dam downstream to the lower bridge at Hinton.
3. Spearguns may be discharged only beneath the surface of the water.
4. It is illegal to use a bolt having an explosive head or shaft or a bolt dipped in or smeared with poison or other chemicals.
5. A diver may not spearfish in such a manner as to interfere with other anglers.
6. A diver may not spearfish in heavily-traveled boat lanes, marked swimming areas, or marked waterskiing areas.
7. "Diver down flag" shall be a red field of not less than 10 inches x 10 inches dimension with a white diagonal stripe not less than 1-1/2 inches wide running upper left to lower right. The flag shall be displayed at all times and be affixed to a separate flotation device. No such flag shall be attached to any navigational device or placed so as to obstruct boat traffic. Divers must come up within 100 feet of flag. All powerboats will remain a minimum distance of 100 feet away from the marker flag. The top of the flag shall be at least 3 feet above the surface of the water.
8. Fish taken by spearfishing may not be returned to the water or left on the bank.



## Measuring Fish

1. Lay the fish on top of a ruler on a flat surface.
2. Close the mouth of the fish and squeeze the tail fin lobes together.
3. Measure all fish from the tip of the lower jaw to the tip of the tail. Do not measure along the curvature of the fish's body.



## Trophy Fish Citation Program

The trophy fish citation program was initiated to recognize outstanding fishing achievement. The color fish illustrations on the citations are reproductions of original paintings by artist Duane Raver. Applications to register a trophy fish can be obtained from any license agent, Wildlife Resources office or [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov).









## Reporting Procedures

- Fish must be legally caught with rod and reel by a licensed angler in West Virginia.
- Carp legally taken by bow and meeting minimum size requirements qualify for a trophy fish citation.
- Fish must meet or exceed the minimum weight or length.
- Fish certified by weight must be weighed on a scale certified by the West Virginia Division of Labor or at any office of the West Virginia Wildlife Resources Section. Fish must be weighed in the presence of a witness who must sign the application form.
- Fish certified by length must be measured in the presence of a witness who must sign the application form, or fish must be measured and a photograph must accompany the application. Measure total length of fish to nearest 1/8 inch from tip of snout to end of tail. See Measuring Fish on this page.
- A clear side view photograph of the fish is desirable.
- Nonresidents and residents are eligible for trophy fish citations.
- Applications must be submitted within 60 days of the date of catch.
- A \$5 fee must accompany each application. Make checks or money orders payable to the West Virginia DNR.

## Minimum Sizes

Trout			Catfish		
Brook	15 in.	1.5 lb.	Bullhead	16 in.	2 lb.
Brown	21 in.	4 lb.	Channel	25 in.	6 lb.
Rainbow	21 in.	4 lb.	Flathead	29 in.	10 lb.
Golden Rainbow	21 in.	4 lb.	Crappie	15 in.	1.5 lb.
Bass			Sunfish	10 in.	1 lb.
Largemouth	21 in.	5 lb.	Chain Pickerel	20 in.	2 lb.
Smallmouth	20 in.	4 lb.	Northern Pike	32 in.	8 lb.
Spotted	14 in.	1.5 lb.	Walleye	25 in.	5 lb.
Rock	11 in.	1 lb.	Sauger	17 in.	1.5 lb.
Striped	25 in.	7 lb.	Yellow Perch	13 in.	1 lb.
Hybrid Striped	24 in.	7 lb.	Freshwater Drum	27 in.	10 lb.
White	15 in.	2 lb.	Fallfish	18 in.	2 lb.
Muskellunge	40 in.	15 lb.	Carp	31 in.	15 lb.
Tiger Musky	40 in.	15 lb.			

# Public Lakes and Ponds - Regulations

Lake or Pond - County		Acres				Lake or Pond - County		Acres			
Airport Pond - Raleigh	•	1				Logan County Airport - Logan	•	1			
Anawalt - McDowell	•	7		•		Lumberport - Harrison		6	•		E
Anderson - Kanawha		7		•		McClintic Ponds - Mason	•	61		•	P
Barboursville - Cabell	•	17			P	Middle Wheeling Creek - Ohio		30	•	•	E
Bear Rock Lakes - Ohio	•	16		•	E	Miletree - Roane		10		•	E
Beech Fork - Wayne COE	•	720	•	•	P 10*	Mill Creek - Barbour	•	8			E
Berwind - McDowell	•	20		•	P	Millers Fork - Wayne	•	5			
Big Ditch - Webster	•	55		•	E	Moncove - Monroe	•	144		•	P 5
Big Run - Marion		7	•	•	E	Mount Storm - Grant		1200	•	•	U*
Bluestone - Summers COE	•	2040	•	•	P U*	Mountain Valley - Summers		39			E
Boley - Fayette	•	18		C	P	Mountwood - Wood	•	48		•	P
Brandywine - Pendleton*	•	6		•	P	Newburg Lake - Preston		5			
Brushy Fork - Pendleton		18		•	E	New Creek Dam 14 - Grant		40		•	
Buffalo Fork - Pocahontas*	•	22		•	E	North Bend - Ritchie	•	305	•	•	P 10
Burnsville - Braxton COE	•	968	•	•	P U*	North Bend State Park - Ritchie		1.5		C	P
Cacapon - Morgan	•	6		•	NMf	O'Brien - Jackson		217	•	•	10
Cameron - Marshall		6	•	•		Pedlar Mountain - Monongalia	under renovation				
Camp Run - Pendleton*		8		•	E	Pennsboro W. S. Reservoir - Ritchie		9		•	E
Castleman Run - Brooke, Ohio	•	22	•	•	E	Pipestem - Summers	•	16			P
Cedar Creek - Gilmer		8	•	•	P	Plum Orchard - Fayette	•	202		•	P U*
Charles Fork - Roane		70		•	E	Poorhouse Pond - Berkeley		5			
Cheat Lake - Monongalia		1730	•	•	L U*	R.D. Bailey - Mingo, Wyoming COE		630	•	•	P U*
Chief Cornstalk - Mason	•	5		•	P	Ridenour - Kanawha	•	27		•	
Chief Logan - Logan	•	7		•		Rock Cliff - Hardy*	•	17		C	P
Conaway Run - Tyler	•	30		•	P	Rockhouse - Logan	•	14			E
Coonskin Park - Kanawha	•	2.5				Rollins - Jackson	•	41		•	E
Coopers Rock - Monongalia	•	6		•	P	Salt Lick Pond 9 - Braxton		15	•	•	E
Curtisville - Marion		30	•	•	E	Seneca - Pocahontas	•	3			P
Doe Run Sub-impoundment - Taylor		11	•	•	P	Sherwood - Greenbrier*		165		P	P
Dog Run - Harrison		15	•		E	Silcott Fork - Roane		23		•	
Dunkard Fork - Marshall	•	49	•	•	E	Sleepy Creek - Berkeley	•	205	•	•	P
East Lynn - Wayne COE	•	1005	•	•	P U*	South Mill Creek - Grant	•	48		•	E
Edwards Run - Hampshire	•	2		•	L	Spruce Knob - Randolph*	•	23		•	P
Elk Fork - Jackson	•	278	•	•	10	Stephens - Raleigh	•	300	•	•	U*
Elk Two Mile (Site 12) - Kanawha		2				Stonecoal - Lewis, Upshur	•	550	•	•	P 10*
Elk Two Mile (Site 13) - Kanawha		3.5				Stonewall Jackson - Lewis COE	•	2650	•	•	P U*
Elk Two Mile (Site 14) - Kanawha		4				Summersville - Nicholas COE	•	2700	•	•	P U*
Fitzpatrick - Raleigh		2.5		•	P	Summit - Greenbrier*	•	43		•	P
Flat Run - Marion		6	•	•	E	Sutton - Braxton COE	•	1500	•	•	P U*
Ft. Ashby - Mineral		12	•	•		Teter Creek - Barbour	•	35		•	P
French Creek - Upshur		2				Thomas Park - Tucker		8	•	•	L
Frozenscamp Left Fork - Jackson		20		•	E	Tomlinson Run - Hancock		30	•		P
Frozenscamp Right Fork - Jackson		20		•	E	Tracy - Ritchie		11		•	L
Handley Pond - Pocahontas	•	5		•	P	Trout Pond - Hardy		2		•	P
Hawks Nest - Fayette		250	•	•	U	Tuckahoe - Greenbrier	•	40		•	E
Horse Creek - Wyoming	•	12		•	E	Turkey Run - Jackson	•	15	•	•	E
Huey Run - Marion		8	•	•	E	Turkey Run - Marshall		15	•	•	E
Hurricane W.S. Reservoir - Putnam	•	12		•		Tygart - Taylor COE		1750	•	•	P U*
James P. Bailey - Mercer	•	28				Tygart River Backwaters - Randolph	•	31	•	•	E
Jennings Randolph - Mineral COE	•	952	•	•	P U*	Underwood Lake - Cabell	•	1			
Jimmy Lewis - Mercer	•	15		•	E	Upper Cove Run - Hardy		6.5		•	E
Kanawha State Forest - Kanawha	•	1			P	Upper Mud - Lincoln	•	307	•	•	10
Kee Reservoir - Mercer		70		•	E	Wallback - Clay	•	15			E
Kimsey Run - Hardy	•	60		•	P	Warden - Hardy	•	44		•	E
Krodel - Mason	•	22	•		P	Watoga - Pocahontas	•	11			P
Larenim - Mineral	•	10	•		NM	Westover Park - Monongalia	•	1.5			
Laurel - Mingo	•	29		•	P	Whetstone - Marion		6	•	•	E
Lick Creek - Wayne		5	•	•		Wolf Run - Marshall		23		•	E
Little Beaver - Raleigh	•	18		P	R	Wood Pond - Ohio	•	.5			
						Woodrum - Jackson (under repair)	•	240	•	•	10

## Key

**Lake - County** \* = National Forest Stamp required  
COE = U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lake



**Accessibility**



**Use of Live Minnows**



**Camping** L = limited primitive P = permit required



**Night Fishing** c = registered campers only  
P = permit required

• = the listed feature or activity is available or permitted.  
A blank space indicates the feature or activity **IS NOT** available or permitted.



**Boating** NM = no motor boats E = electric motors only  
R = rental boats only U = unlimited h.p.

5 = 5 h.p. maximum

10 = 10 h.p. maximum (Larger motors must have props removed or motor tilted to the maximum limit.)

\* = contains no wake zones, speed zones and/or other restricted areas

f = fee charged for private boats, May 30 - Labor Day

A USCG approved life preserver is required for each occupant of ALL BOATS. See West Virginia Boating Regulations. All boats propelled by machinery must be licensed.



# Licenses - 2006 Fishing Fees

Fishing and Hunting Licenses are good for the calendar year. You must purchase new licenses at the beginning of each year. All anglers must carry a valid form of photo identification while fishing.

## Resident Licenses

<b>Conservation Stamp(Class CS):</b> Required for licensed anglers except holders of Class X, XJ, A-L, B-L, and AB-L licenses .....	\$5
<b>Hunting and Trapping (Class A):</b> .....	\$18
<b>Fishing (Class B):</b> includes National Forest.....	\$18
<b>Sportsman Hunting/Fishing/Trapping (Class X):</b> for ages 18 through 64 .....	\$33
<b>Junior Sportsman Hunting/Fishing/Trapping (Class XJ):</b> for ages 15 through 17 .....	\$15

## Lifetime Licenses

These fees are subject to increase upon approval of legislative rules.

<b>Combination Hunting, Trapping and Fishing (Class AB-L)*:</b> .....	\$570
<b>Combination Hunting, Trapping and Fishing - Infant (Class AB-L-I)*:</b> must be purchased before age 2 .....	\$285
<b>Fishing (Class B-L)*:</b> .....	\$325
<b>Fishing - Infant (Class B-L-I)*:</b> must be purchased before age 2 .....	\$163
<b>Trout Fishing (Class O-L)**:</b> .....	\$150
<b>Trout Fishing - Infant (Class O-L-I)**:</b> must be purchased before age 2 .....	\$75

\* Conservation Stamp not required.

\*\* Valid only when accompanied by a Class B, AB-L, AB-L I, B-L, B-L-I, X, or XJ license.



## Nonresident Licenses

<b>Conservation/Law Enforcement Stamp (Class CS/LE):</b> Required for all licensed anglers ...	\$12
<b>Fishing (Class F):</b> .....	\$35
<b>Hunting/Trapping (Class E):</b> .....	\$110
<b>One Day Fishing (Class LL):</b> One day .....	\$3
<b>Junior Sportsman Hunting/Fishing/Trapping (Class XXJ):</b> for ages 15 through 17 .....	\$15
<b>National Forest Hunting/Trapping/Fishing (Class I):</b> Required of licensed anglers except for holders of Class XXJ .....	\$2

## Resident and Nonresident Licenses

<b>Trout Fishing Stamp (Class O):</b> Required of licensed anglers fishing for trout	
<b>Resident</b> .....	\$10
<b>Nonresident</b> .....	\$15

## Purchasing a License

### Licenses may be obtained as follows:

1. At over 350 retail agent locations throughout the state and all county clerks offices. (\$3 issuing fee for first purchase and \$1 for subsequent purchases.)
2. **www.wvfish.com**  
(Official DNR website - \$2.00 fee per transaction.)
3. Directly from the Hunting and Fishing License Unit by phoning **(304) 558-2758**.

### For additional information please contact:

#### Hunting and Fishing License Unit

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources  
State Capitol Complex, Building 3, Room 624  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

**(304) 558-2758 • customerservice@wvdnr.gov**

## Fishing License Not Required for

1. Residents who are totally blind. A physician's statement or certificate must be carried while fishing.
2. Residents 65 years of age or older.
3. Nonresidents or residents under 15 years of age.
4. Residents on active duty in the U. S. armed forces while on military leave. Leave papers shall be carried while fishing.
5. Resident landowners or their resident children, resident parents, or bonafide resident tenants of such land may fish on their own land during open seasons in accordance with the laws and regulations applying to such fishing.
6. Residents honorably discharged from the U. S. armed forces receiving total permanent service-connected disability benefits or former prisoners of war as determined by the Veterans Administration or resident disabled veterans who qualify under West Virginia Code 17A-10-8 and are exempted from payment of any motor vehicle registration fee by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. Such persons must carry a card issued by the DNR.
7. Residents or in-patients of any state mental hospital, health or benevolent institution. Such persons must be under proper supervision and carry a written statement or certificate signed by the superintendent of the institution or facility.
8. Developmentally disabled residents. A DDFL card issued by the DNR must be carried while fishing.

## Open Fishing Tournament Sponsors

A permit is required from the Division of Natural Resources to hold a tournament that is open to the public or awards cash or prizes. Club tournaments, which are restricted to members competing for points, do not require a permit.

### Tournament permit requests should be made to:

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources  
Wildlife Resources Section  
State Capitol Complex, Building 3, Room 808  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Call **(304) 558-2771** for information.

Photo: Tom Oldham, WVDNR - Wildlife Resources

## Definition of Resident

A person who has been a domiciled resident continuously in West Virginia for 30 consecutive days or more immediately prior to the date of application for a license or permit. This includes members of the U.S. armed forces stationed outside the state who were WV residents at the time of entry into the service and any full-time student of a college or university of this state.

## Violations

### Point System for Fishing Violations

Persons making false application for a license will have their license privileges suspended for one year.

### Points assigned for other fishing and hunting violations:

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>10 points</b> | for use of explosives or poison material in taking fish |
| <b>6 points</b>  | for illegal possession or sale of wildlife              |
| <b>4 points</b>  | for all other violations                                |

When a violator accumulates 10 or more fishing or hunting points combined, his/her license(s) will be revoked for a period of two years.

Points will be removed on their second anniversary or upon restoration of the license(s).

## Reporting Boating, Fishing and Hunting Law Violations:

**In progress** - dial 911

**Not in progress** - call District Law Enforcement Office during normal operating hours.

1. Observe and write down all of the information concerning the violation.
2. Don't confront violator.
3. Contact a local Conservation Officer or county communication center as soon as possible.
4. Become involved in protecting your sport, be willing to testify in court.

## Stream Pollution or Fish Kills:

Call **1-800-642-3074**.

# Fishing - Favorite Waters

## Channel catfish

Bluestone, East Lynn, Burnsville, Stonecoal, Tygart, and Stonewall Jackson lakes; Kanawha, New, South Branch of the Potomac, and Ohio rivers. Most warmwater streams and state managed impoundments.

### Best baits

Minnows, nightcrawlers, chicken livers and natural baits.

## Crappie

Bluestone, Burnsville, East Lynn, R.D. Bailey, Stonewall Jackson, Sutton, Summersville, and Tygart lakes; Ohio River backwaters.

### Favorite baits

Minnows, jigs and minnow-imitating lures.

## Hybrid striped bass

Kanawha and Ohio rivers; Beech Fork, Bluestone, East Lynn and R.D. Bailey lakes.

### Best baits

White jigs, silver spoons, shad imitation lures and live minnows.

## Largemouth bass

Beech Fork, Bluestone, Burnsville, Cheat, East Lynn, R.D. Bailey, Stonewall Jackson and Sutton lakes; Ohio River; most farm ponds and state managed lakes.

### Best baits

Minnows, nightcrawlers, crayfish, crankbaits, spinnerbaits, jigs, softplastic and most top water lures.

## Musky

Burnsville, East Lynn, Stonecoal, and Stonewall Jackson lakes; Buckhannon, Elk (downstream of Sutton), Gauley, Hughes, Little Kanawha, Monongahela, Mud, New, and West Fork rivers; Dunkard, Middle Island, Mill and Sandy creeks.

### Favorite tackle and baits

Bait casting reels using lures imitating minnows; large spinners. Live creek chubs, suckers or large minnows are excellent bait.

## Smallmouth bass

Summersville and Tygart Lakes; Cacapon, Elk, Greenbrier, Little Kanawha, New, South Branch of the Potomac, mainstream Potomac, Ohio, and Shenandoah rivers

### Favorite tackle and baits

Spinning tackle of medium light and ultra light weight using spinners and other artificial lures resembling minnows, night crawlers, hellgrammites, crayfish, crankbaits, jigs, and numerous soft plastic and topwater baits.

## Trout

Cranberry, Elk above Webster Springs, South Branch of the Potomac near Franklin, North Fork of the South Branch, Shavers Fork of Cheat, and Williams rivers.

## Walleye

Jennings Randolph, R.D. Bailey, Summersville, Stonecoal and Tygart lakes; Elk and lower Gauley rivers; Kanawha, Monongahela, and Ohio river dam tailwaters.

### Best baits

Live minnows, night crawlers, jigs, minnow-imitating crankbaits and spinners.

## White bass

Tygart Lake; Ohio, Kanawha and Monongahela rivers.

### Best baits

Jigs, crankbaits, spinners, streamers and live minnows.

## Handicap Accessible Fishing Areas

For more information on developed sites contact:

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources  
**Wildlife Resources Section**

State Capitol Complex  
Building 3, Room 808  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

(304) 558-2771 or [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov)



# Favorite Float Trips - Fishing

Many of West Virginia's streams offer excellent float trip fishing when water conditions are suitable. Some popular trips are listed.

## Cacapon River

From	To	Miles
Wardensville.....	Capon Lake .....	8.5
Capon Lake .....	Hooks Mill Road Ford .....	8.0
Hooks Mill Road Ford .....	Cold Stream .....	11.0
Cold Stream .....	Rt. 127 Bridge.....	7.0
Rt. 127 Bridge.....	Cacapon Crossings.....	9.0
Cacapon Crossings.....	Largent South .....	6.7
Largent South .....	Fisher Ford Bridge.....	11.0
Fisher Ford Bridge.....	Power Plant.....	9.0
Power Plant .....	Route 9 Bridge .....	1.75

### Anglers Alert

Anglers are reminded that West Virginia law prohibits the release of fish or other aquatic organisms into public waters, unless a stocking permit is issued by the Division of Natural Resources. Stocking permits are not required for trout and black bass stocking provided that disease-free certifications are obtained prior to stocking, or if trout originate from a source within the state. A permit is not required for stocking native or established fish into privately owned ponds.

Moving live fish or other aquatic animals and plants from one body of water to another can cause long term damage to the ecological stability of lakes and streams and can threaten recreational fishing. Please take these precautions to prevent problems.

#### Please:

- do not move fish from one body of water to another
- drain live wells thoroughly before leaving an access area
- do not release live baitfish or aquarium fish into West Virginia's waters
- remove all visible plants and animals from your boat, motor, trailer and nets before leaving an access area

By following these simple steps, anglers can help ensure West Virginia's good fishing for future generations.

## Greenbrier River

From	To	Miles
Renick .....	Anthony Bridge.....	10.0
Anthony Bridge.....	Caldwell .....	12.7
Caldwell .....	Ronceverte .....	6.0
Ronceverte .....	Fort Spring .....	8.5
Fort Spring* .....	Alderson .....	6.0
Alderson .....	Pence Springs.....	8.5
Pence Springs.....	Talcott Bridge .....	4.5
Talcott Bridge** .....	Barger Springs.....	4.5
Barger Springs.....	Willow Wood Bridge .....	6.0

\* Contains rapids for experienced canoeists only.

\*\*Contains two falls to be portaged.

## New River

From	To	Miles
Shanklins Ferry .....	Mouth of Indian Creek.....	6.0
Below Sandstone Falls ...	Prince .....	12.0
Prince .....	Thurmond .....	12.0

Only experienced canoeists should attempt to float the New River. Portaging some areas will be necessary.

## South Branch River

From	To	Miles
Mouth of North Fork .....	Petersburg Bridge.....	4.5
Petersburg Bridge .....	Vernon Welton Park .....	3.0
Vernon Welton Park .....	Fisher Bridge South .....	5.5
Fisher Bridge South .....	Fisher Bridge.....	2.5
Fisher Bridge.....	Old Fields Bridge.....	4.5
Old Fields Bridge.....	Trough Entrance (McNeill)..	5.0
Trough Entrance (McNeill)..	Harmisons.....	7.0
Harmisons .....	Stony Run .....	1.5
Stony Run .....	Romney Bridge.....	8.75
Romney Bridge .....	Hanging Rock .....	5.0
Hanging Rock .....	Blues Beach Bridge .....	4.5
Blues Beach Bridge .....	Millesons Mill .....	7.5
Millesons Mill .....	Millesons Mill Bridge .....	2.0
Millesons Mill Bridge .....	Blue Ford .....	4.75
Blue Ford .....	Indian Rock .....	4.0
Indian Rock .....	Mouth .....	4.5

# Fishing - Safety

## Water Safety

Fishing isn't a dangerous sport, but anytime you are outdoors in all kinds of weather near water there is an element of risk. Being prepared and taking proper precautions can eliminate most of the risk.

### Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)

Personal flotation devices are not just for wearing in boats and not just for those who can't swim. Anytime you are on or near deep or fast-moving water, it is always best to wear your PFD. Approximately 90 percent of water-related fatalities are the result of drowning. Most accidents are a sudden, unexpected occurrence. If you're not wearing your life jacket, it will be of little use to you. Make sure the PFD is in good condition and fits properly.

### Wading

There are several rules you should follow for safe wading.

1. Wade with a fishing buddy.
2. Wear your PFD.
3. Find out whether the bottom is rocky or muddy.
4. Shuffle your feet or probe with a stick along the bottom to avoid holes.
5. Study how swiftly the water is moving.
6. Wear appropriate foot wear (considering water temperature and bottom substrate).

### Person In Water

Reach-Throw-Row-Go is a method of rescuing a person who is in trouble in water. If the person is close to you, REACH out with a long object such as an oar or tree limb to pull the person into shore or the boat.

If you can't reach the person, then THROW them a life-saving device. If possible, it should be tied to the end of a line so you can pull the person to you. An inflatable ball or foam cooler can be used if the proper device is not available.

If there is nothing to throw, ROW a boat to the person in trouble. The person should be pulled in over the stern, or back, of the boat if possible to prevent the boat from tipping over. If the boat has a motor, it must be shut off before you get to the person in the water.

GO (swim) to the person ONLY as a last resort and only if you have had life-saving training. People who are drowning often panic and injure or drown someone trying to rescue them.



Photo: Steve Brown, WVDNR - Wildlife Resources

## Fishing in Cold Weather

To stay warm, wear several layers of clothing. Air trapped between the layers serves as insulation. A wool hat prevents heat loss from your head. Fishing is difficult with most gloves, but lightweight rubber gloves, gloves without fingertips, and gloves that have a flap to expose your fingers allow greater manual dexterity.

### Hypothermia

Hypothermia is a condition in which your body loses heat faster than it can produce it. Without treatment, your life is in danger. Exposure to the cold along with wind, wetness and exhaustion causes hypothermia. A common misconception is that the air or water temperature must be below freezing before you can become hypothermic. Actually, many cases of hypothermia develop in air temperatures between 30 and 50 degrees. And because water takes away body heat 25 times faster than air of the same temperature, any water colder than 70 degrees can cause hypothermia.

Symptoms of hypothermia include uncontrollable shivering, fumbling hands, slow speech, confusion and exhaustion. To treat hypothermia, get the victim out of the cold, give warm drinks, keep the person awake, remove all wet clothing and get the victim into dry clothes.

### Ice Fishing

West Virginia doesn't possess numerous ice fishing opportunities but in some ways, that makes the sport a little riskier. Anglers may be tempted to venture out on a frozen lake or river before checking the thickness of the ice. Ice should be at least four inches thick before it is considered safe.

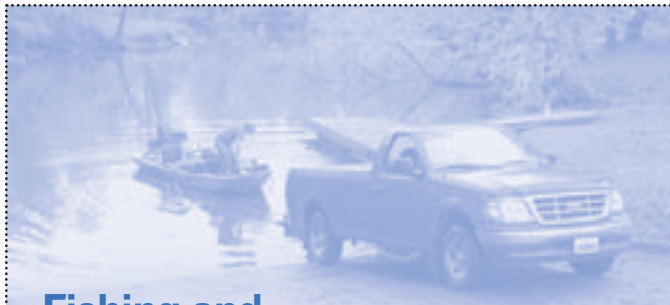
## Safety with Fishing Equipment

Fishing hooks can be dangerous if not handled properly. Look behind you before you cast to make sure your hook will not be caught on a power line, a tree, or a person. Do not leave fishing tackle lying loose on the ground. Someone can trip on it and fall or step on a hook.

## Boating Education Requirement

Anglers using boats must obey boating laws. In West Virginia, anyone born after December 31, 1986 must successfully complete a N.A.S.B.L.A.-approved Boating Education Course before operating a motorboat.

Contact a Conservation Officer for an available course near you. You can also take the online Boating Education Course available at [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov). Click on boating under the Law Enforcement heading.



## Fishing and Boating Access Sites

1. Public boating and fishing access facilities shall be used solely for the purpose of launching and retrieving watercraft or fishing from the shore. No other use of the access sites is allowed.
2. After launching, vehicles shall be parked in available parking spaces.
3. Any law enforcement officer acting under proper authority may prohibit an individual from launching a watercraft from any public boating and fishing access sites.

### The following are prohibited at fishing and boating access sites:

- consumption of alcoholic beverages or possession of an open container of alcoholic beverages.
- swimming or bathing.
- camping.
- open fires.
- trash disposal except where trash receptacles are provided.
- discharge of firearms, fireworks and explosives.
- leaving unattended watercraft.
- commercial use except as authorized by the director.
- parking of any vehicle or the mooring of any watercraft in such a manner as to obstruct any avenue of ingress or egress, except for the purpose of launching.

Photo: David Fattaleh, WV Division of Tourism

## Safe Boating Rules

Boating accidents usually result from a collision with another boat or an object in the water such as rocks or pilings. A little boating knowledge, common sense and courtesy could prevent most accidents.

- Don't operate a boat under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Don't overload the boat.
- Don't sit on the edge of the boat.
- If you must stand up, do so carefully away from the sides
- Drive at a safe speed.
- Use navigation lights at night.
- Keep a lookout for other boats and follow the rules of navigation.
- Always let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.
- Don't fish during a thunderstorm.

Check the weather conditions before you leave. Lightning, strong wind and high waves create hazardous conditions. If caught on a lake in a strong storm, put all fishing gear in the bottom of the boat, stay low in the boat and get off the water as soon as possible. In high waves, the best way to keep from capsizing is to steer the boat at a slight angle into the waves.

## Alcohol and Drugs

Operating a boat under the influence of alcohol or drugs creates the same risks and carries the same penalties as DUI. Intoxication affects your balance, which is already challenged by being in a boat. It also affects your coordination, vision and thinking ability. Alcohol also causes you to lose body heat faster should you fall into the water, increasing the risk of hypothermia.

## Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)

Most boating fatalities are the result of a boat capsizing or passenger falling overboard. Nearly 80 percent of those who died in boating accidents were NOT wearing a PFD.

If you are fishing from a boat, West Virginia law requires that you have one PFD on board for each person on the boat. Of course having an old PFD stuffed away somewhere on your boat will not help in most emergencies. Make sure the PFD is in good condition (try it out in the water from time to time), readily available and fits properly. Boats over 16 feet must also have a ring or cushion on board that can be thrown to a person in the water.



# Trout Stocking - Lakes and Ponds

Code	No. Stockings ....Period	Code	No. Stockings ....Period	Code	No. Stockings ....Period
Q	One ..... 1st week of March	BW	One ..... February	CR	Varies.....Varies
W	One ..... January		One every two weeks... March-May	M	One each month.... February-May
	Two ..... February	BA	One ..... January	MJ	One each month..... January-April
	One each week ..... March-May		One ..... March	Y	One ..... April
X	After April 1 or area is open to public			F	One each week ..... October 9 & 16

Lake or Pond - County	Code	Lake or Pond - County	Code
Anawalt - McDowell	M	Lick Creek - Wayne	MJ
Anderson - Kanawha	BA	Little Beaver - Raleigh	MJ
Barboursville - Cabell	BA	Logan County Airport - Logan	Q
Bear Rock Lakes - Ohio	BW	Middle Wheeling Creek - Ohio	BW
Beech Fork (Tailwaters) - Wayne	M	Miletree - Roane	BA
Berwind - McDowell	M	Mill Creek - Barbour	M
Big Run - Marion	Y	Millers Fork - Wayne	Q
Boley - Fayette	M	Mountwood - Wood	MJ
Brandywine - Pendleton	BW-F	Newburg - Preston	M
Brushy Fork - Pendleton	BW	New Creek Dam 14 - Grant	BW-F
Buffalo Fork - Pocahontas	BW-F	Pennsboro W. S. Reservoir - Ritchie	BA
Burnsville (Tailwaters) - Braxton	BW	Pipestem - Summers	M
Cacapon - Morgan	W	Poorhouse - Berkeley	M
Castleman Run - Brooke, Ohio	BW	Raleigh County Airport - Raleigh	Q
Cedar Creek - Gilmer	BA	R.D. Bailey (Tailwaters) - Mingo, Wyoming	BW-F
Chief Cornstalk - Mason	BA	Ridenour - Kanawha	BA
Chief Logan - Logan	MJ	Rock Cliff - Hardy	XBW-F
Conaway Run - Tyler	M	Rockhouse - Logan	M
Coonskin Park - Kanawha	Q	Rollins - Jackson	MJ
Coopers Rock - Monongalia	BW-F	Seneca - Pocahontas	BW-F
Curtisville - Marion	MJ	South Mill Creek - Grant	BW
Dog Run - Harrison	M	Spruce Knob - Randolph	W-F
Dunkard Fork - Marshall	M	Stonewall Jackson (Tailwaters) - Lewis	BW
East Lynn (Tailwaters) - Wayne	M	Summersville (Tailwaters) - Nicholas	BW-F
Edwards Run - Hampshire	BW-F	Summit - Greenbrier	W-F
Fitzpatrick - Raleigh	MJ	Sutton (Tailwaters) - Braxton	BW-F
Ft. Ashby - Mineral	BW	Teter Creek - Barbour	BW-F
French Creek - Upshur	BW	Thomas Park - Tucker	M
Handley - Pocahontas	Q	Tomlinson Run - Hancock	MJ
Horse Creek - Wyoming	M	Tracy - Ritchie	BA
Huey Run - Marion	BA	Tuckahoe - Greenbrier	M
Hurricane W.S. Reservoir - Putnam	BA	Turkey Run - Jackson	BA
James P. Bailey - Mercer	BA	Tygart (Tailwaters) - Taylor	M-F
Jennings Randolph (Tailwaters) - Mineral	M	Underwood - Cabell	Q
Jimmy Lewis - Mercer	M	Wallback - Clay	M
Kanawha State Forest - Kanawha	Q	Warden - Hardy	BW
Kimsey Run - Hardy	BW	Watoga - Pocahontas	W
Krodel - Mason	BA	Westover Park - Monongalia	Q
Larenim - Mineral	BA	Wood - Ohio	Q
Laurel - Mingo	MJ		

Updated daily during Trout Stocking Season: **Hunting and Fishing Hotline (304) 558-3399** and online at [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov)

# Streams - Trout Stocking

Stream - County	Code	Stream - County	Code
Anthony Creek - Greenbrier	W-F	Meadow Creek - Summers	M
Back Fork of Elk River - Webster	M	Middle Creek - Berkeley	W
Back Fork of Elk River (C & R) - Webster	CR	Middle Fork - Barbour, Randolph, Upshur	M
Beech Fork Lake (Tailwaters) - Wayne	M	Middle Wheeling Creek (C&R) - Ohio	CR
Big Bullskin Run - Jefferson	W	Mill Creek - Fayette	M
Big Clear Creek - Greenbrier	BW-F	Mill Creek - Berkeley	W
Big Sandy Creek - Preston	BW	Mill Creek - Hampshire	BW
Blackwater River - Tucker	W-F	Milligan Creek - Greenbrier	M
Blackwater River (C & R) - Tucker	CR	Mill Run - Berkeley	M
Blaney Hollow & Morgan Run - Monongalia	M	Mill Run - Hampshire	BW
Buckhannon River - Upshur	BW-F	Moores Run - Hardy	M
Buffalo Creek - Brooke	BW	New Creek - Mineral	W
Buffalo Creek - Logan	M	North Branch of Potomac River - Mineral	M
Burnsville Lake (Tailwaters) - Braxton	BW	North River - Hardy	BW
Camp Creek - Mercer	BW	North Fork of Anthony Creek - Greenbrier	BW
Cherry River - Nicholas	BW	North Fork of Cherry River - Greenbrier, Nicholas	BW
Clear Fork - McDowell	M	North Fork of Fishing Creek Dam - Wetzel	M
Clear Fork - Wyoming	BW	North Fork of Lunice Creek - Grant	BW
Clear Fork (C & R) - Wyoming	CR	North Fork of Patterson Creek - Grant	W
Clover Run - Tucker	M	North Fork of South Branch - Grant, Pendleton	W-F
Cranberry River - Nicholas, Pocahontas, Webster	W-F	North Fork of South Branch (C & R) - Pendleton	CR
Cranberry River (C & R) - Nicholas, Pocahontas	CR	Opequon Creek - Berkeley, Jefferson	W-F
Cranberry River, Woodbine Area - Nicholas	Q	Paint Creek - Fayette, Kanawha	BW
Deer Creek - Nicholas	M	Paint Creek (C & R) - Fayette	CR
Deer Creek - Pocahontas	M	Panther Creek - McDowell	M
Desert Fork - Webster	M	Paw Paw Creek - Marion	BW
Dillions Run - Hampshire	BW	Pinch Creek - Raleigh	Y
Dry Fork - McDowell	M	Pinnacle Creek - Wyoming	BW-F
Dry Fork - Randolph, Tucker	BW	Pond Fork - Boone	BW-F
Dunloup Creek - Fayette	M	Potts Creek - Monroe	M
East Fork of the Greenbrier River - Pocahontas	W	R.D. Bailey Lake (Tailwaters) - Mingo, Wyoming	BW-F
East Lynn Lake (Tailwaters) - Wayne	M	Red Creek - Tucker	BW
East River of New River - Mercer	BW	Rhine Creek - Preston	M
Edwards Run and Pond - Hampshire	BW-F	Right Fork of Buckhannon River - Upshur	M
Elk River - Randolph, Webster	W-F	Right Fork of Middle Fork - Upshur	M
Elk River (C & R) - Randolph	CR	Right Fork of Little Kanawha River - Upshur, Webster	M
Elkwater Fork - Randolph	M	Rocky Marsh Run - Jefferson	W
Evitts Run - Jefferson	W-F	Second Creek (C & R) - Greenbrier, Monroe	CR
Fall Run - Webster	M	Shavers Fork (C & R) - Randolph	CR
Gandy Creek - Randolph	W	Shavers Fork (Lower Section) - Randolph	W-F
Glade Creek (Babcock) - Fayette	BW	Shavers Fork (Upper Section) - Randolph	W-F
Glade Creek of New River - Raleigh	BW-F	South Branch (Franklin Section) - Pendleton	W-F
Glady Fork - Randolph	W	South Branch (Smoke Hole Section) - Pendleton	W-F
Greenbrier River - Pocahontas	BW	South Branch (C & R) - Pendleton	CR
Hills Creek - Pocahontas	M	South Fork of Cherry River - Greenbrier, Nicholas	BW
Hopkins Fork - Boone	M	South Fork of Cranberry River - Pocahontas	BW
Horseshoe Run - Tucker	BW	South Fork of Fishing Creek - Wetzel	M
Indian Creek of New River - Summers	M	South Fork of Potts Creek - Monroe	M
Kings Creek - Hancock	M	Spruce Laurel Fork - Boone	M
Knapps Creek - Pocahontas	W-F	Stonewall Jackson Lake (Tailwaters) - Lewis	BW
Laurel Creek - Clay	M	Sugar Creek - Webster	M
Laurel Creek - Fayette	M	Summersville Lake (Tailwaters) - Nicholas	BW-F
Laurel Creek - Greenbrier, Nicholas	M	Sutton Lake (Tailwaters) - Braxton	BW-F
Laurel Fork - Randolph	W	Tilhance Creek - Berkeley	BW
Laurel Fork - Webster	BW	Tomlinson Run - Hancock	M
Left Fork of Buckhannon River - Upshur	M	Trout Run - Hardy	W
Left Fork of Holly River - Webster	BW	Tuscarora Creek - Berkeley	BW
Left Fork of Right Fork Buckhannon - Randolph, Upshur	BW	Twelvepole Creek (Wayne Dam) - Wayne	MJ
Little Clear Creek - Greenbrier	BW	Tygart Lake (Tailwaters) - Taylor	M-F
Little Kanawha River (Headwaters) - Lewis, Upshur	M	Tygart River (Headwaters) - Randolph	BW-F
Little River (East Fork) - Pocahontas	W	Waites Run - Hardy	W
Little River (West Fork) - Pocahontas	W	West Fork of Greenbrier River - Pocahontas	W-F
Long Marsh Run - Jefferson	M	West Fork of Twelvepole Creek - Wayne	M
Lost River - Hardy	W-F	Wheeling Creek - Marshall, Ohio	BW
Lower Cove Run - Hardy	M	Whiteday Creek - Marion, Monongalia	BW
Marsh Fork - Raleigh	M	Williams River - Pocahontas, Webster	W-F
Mash Fork - Mercer	M	Williams River (C & R) - Pocahontas	CR
Meadow Creek - Greenbrier	M	Wolf Creek - Preston	M

# Fish - State Records

## Reporting Procedures

A record of the largest fish of each species legally taken with rod and reel by a licensed angler in West Virginia waters is maintained by the Division of Natural Resources. Certificates of accomplishment are awarded for each record holder.

Anglers landing a potential state record fish should report the catch as soon as possible to the district fisheries biologist in the closest DNR district office. Please follow these guidelines to ensure accuracy of reporting.

1. Name, address, and telephone number of angler.
2. Species of fish, where, when, and how caught.
3. Total length of fish measured from tip of snout to end of tail. Lay fish on top of ruler on a flat surface. Close the mouth of the fish and squeeze the tail fin lobes together. Do not measure along the curvature of the fish's body.
4. Fish must be weighed on a scale certified by the West Virginia Division of Labor.
5. Signatures and telephone numbers of two persons who witnessed the length and weight measurements.
6. A DNR fisheries biologist must verify the species, length, and weight of the fish.
7. A photograph of the fish is desirable.



Your purchase of  
fishing equipment and  
motorboat fuels supports  
Sport Fish Restoration and  
boating access facilities.

Species	Yr.	Length (inches)	Weight (pounds)	Location	Angler
<b>Bass</b>					
<i>Largemouth</i>	2001	25.75	9.62	Dog Run Lake	Eli Gain
	1994	24.8	12.28	Pond - <i>Grant Co.</i>	David W. Heeter
<i>Smallmouth</i>	1976	25.5	7.5	New River	Franklin J. Elliott
	1971	24.25	9.75	South Branch	David Lindsay
<i>Rock</i>	1964	13.8	1.75	Big Sandy Creek	Warren Ryan
<i>Spotted</i>	2000	19.0	4.77	R. D. Bailey Lake	Kevin Dameron
	1988	19.0	3.82	R. D. Bailey Lake	Leonard Blankenship
<i>Striped</i>	2000	37.68	29.56	Bluestone Lake	Terry Watkins
<i>Hybrid Striped</i>	2000	32.1	14.0	Kanawha River	Frankie Harris
	1985	31.5	16.75	Kanawha River	Robert Honaker
<i>White</i>	1985	20.0	4.56	New River	Louis Puskas
<b>Bluegill</b>	1986	11.7	2.75	Pond - <i>Randolph Co.</i>	Mark Allen Lewis
	1964	13.75	2.25	Farm Pond - <i>Fayette Co.</i>	Dennis Criss
<b>Bowfin</b>	1994	32.25	7.54	Pond - <i>Berkeley Co.</i>	Donald E. Newcomb, III
	1994	29.38	7.66	Pond - <i>Berkeley Co.</i>	Carl A Jaegar, III
<b>Buffalo</b>	1976	41.0	38.0	Little Kanawha River	Hobert Null
<b>Carp</b>					
<i>Common</i>	1998	39.3	47.0	Farm Pond - <i>Preston Co.</i>	Gary Johnson
	1988	41.0	41.5	Stonecoal Lake	Charles J. Cook
<i>Grass</i>	2002	47.1	52.5	Farm Pond - <i>Mason Co.</i>	Joseph R. Spencer, II
	2005	71.69	50.75	Warden Lake	William R. Taucher
<b>Catfish</b>					
<i>Blue</i>	2005	36.5	24.37	Ohio River	Sam Morrison
<i>Bullhead</i>	1977	22.75	6.1	Tygart Lake Headwaters	Gary R. Freeman
<i>Channel</i>	2005	40.3	33.42	Patterson Creek	Michael Sears
<i>Flathead</i>	1956	52.0	70.0	Little Kanawha River	L. L. McCullung
<b>Chain Pickerel</b>	2001	27.75	6.19	Tuckahoe Lake	Steven Demma
<b>Crappie</b>	1971	19.75	4.05	Meathouse Fork	Leonard Edgell
<b>Eel</b>	1983	44.25	6.27	Elk River	Steve Woods
	1977	44.0	7.25	Bunker Hill Quarry	Arlie R. Ruble
<b>Fallfish</b>	1970	21.25	3.5	North Fork of So. Branch	James Blackwell
<b>Freshwater Drum</b>	1989	35.5	27.0	South Fork of Hughes	Charles Mickel Lott
	1954	37.0	25.0	Little Kanawha River	Bill Dawkins
<b>Gar</b>					
<i>Longnose</i>	2003	50.63	16.75	Fish Creek	Brian Klug
	1993	50.5	19.08	Kanawha River	Michael Shan Casey
<b>Goldeye</b>	1983	18.5	3.0	Ohio River	Delbert McWilliams
<b>Muskellunge</b>	2003	52.7	38.5	Stonecoal Lake	Glenn Boyd
	1997	50.37	49.75	Stonecoal Lake	Anna Marsh
<b>Northern Pike</b>	1989	42.6	22.06	Dog Run Lake	Boyd O. Pratt, Sr.
<b>Sauger</b>	1985	23.0	4.75	Ohio River	Steve Powell
<b>Saugeye</b>	2005	26.8	7.55	East Lynn Lake	Brian Moore
	2005	27.44	6.01	Stonewall Jackson Lake	Rick Dunlap
<b>Skipjack</b>	2002	18.4	2.61	Kanawha River	Steve Skeens
	1991	18.6	2.38	Ohio River	Elmer Bullard
<b>Tiger Musky</b>	1994	49.25	36.5	Mountwood Lake	Clyde E. Beckett
<b>Trout</b>					
<i>Brook</i>	2004	22.25	7.64	Shavers Fork	Gary M. Chapman
	1981	23.5	4.78	Lost River	Jack E. Foltz
<i>Brown</i>	1968	32.0	16.0	South Branch	Paul Barker
<i>Golden Rainbow</i>	1998	26.4	9.31	Brushy Fork Lake	Danny Crider
	1987	27.5	8.63	Stonecoal Lake	Gerald Estep
<i>Rainbow</i>	2005	30.5	15.65	Pond - <i>Monroe Co.</i>	Aaron Propps
	1993	31.7	11.74	Stonecoal Lake	John P. Arnett
<i>Tiger</i>	1986	26.0	6.68	Greenbrier River	John Duncan
<b>Walleye</b>	2004	30.87	18.97	Elk River	Jerry Rose
	1976	35.0	15.0	Kanawha Falls	Fred Cline
<b>Yellow Perch</b>	1985	14.5	1.83	Tygart Lake	Charles Mayle
	2005	15.1	1.43	Pond - <i>Hampshire Co.</i>	Chadwick A. Smith

# A Guide to your Health - Fish

## Health Benefits of Eating Fish

Fish are nutritious and good to eat. When properly prepared, fish provide numerous health benefits, especially for the heart. The American Heart Association recommends eating two to three fish meals each week.

### The benefits of eating fish include:

- Fish offer high-quality protein with fewer calories than a similar-sized portion of meat. Example: Both catfish and ground beef are about 18% protein. But, for an 8-ounce meal, the catfish will have only about 232 calories, while the regular ground beef will have about 640 calories.
- Fish are low in sodium and are good sources of potassium, vitamins, and other minerals.
- Fish are generally low in cholesterol and saturated fats, which have been associated with high blood pressure and heart disease.
- While the benefits of fish on nutrition are still being studied, much of the current research is focused on various kinds of beneficial fats in fish, particularly a kind of omega-3 fatty acids which are in some fish and fish oils. Some studies have indicated that eating these fatty acids have favorable effects on health conditions such as reducing blood cholesterol levels and high blood pressure and hardening of the arteries.

## Contaminants in Fish

Some fish take in contaminants (PCBs, for example) from the water they live in and the food they eat. These contaminants build up in the fish over time. Eating contaminated fish can result in a buildup of these chemicals in your body, so it is important to keep your exposure as low as possible. The meal advisory on the following pages is intended to protect people, especially pregnant and nursing women, women who may become pregnant in the next few years, and small children from potential health problems from eating contaminants in fish.



Photo: Johanna Ellis, WVDNR - Wildlife Resources

## Fish Consumption Advisories

The West Virginia Fish Consumption Advisories are presented in the following pages. These recommendations are intended to allow you to receive the nutritional benefits from eating fish while keeping the level of contaminants from fish at levels in your body where health problems are not likely. Fish advisories are not intended to discourage you from eating fish, but should be used as a guide to eating fish in the proper amounts so as not to adversely impact your health. You can reduce your risks by eating fish less likely to contain contaminants, cleaning and cooking them properly, and eating portions that correspond to your body weight.

### Which fish are less likely to contain contaminants?

Some fish such as sunfish, crappie, and trout eat insects and other aquatic life and are less likely to contain contaminants at levels that might affect your health. If you eat walleye, bass, and other predatory fish, eat the smaller, younger fish that are less likely to contain contaminants. Eat fewer fish like carp and catfish, which feed on the bottom of lakes and rivers and are more likely to contain contaminants.

### How should I prepare and cook fish to reduce the amount of contaminants in the fish?

PCBs and Dioxin are contaminants that usually build up in a fish's fat deposits and just underneath the skin. By removing the skin and fat before cooking, you can reduce the levels of these chemicals. Mercury collects in the fish's muscle and cannot be reduced by cleaning and cooking methods. To reduce PCBs and Dioxin contaminants:

- Fillet fish and throw away the fat, skin, and internal organs (where contaminants are most likely to accumulate) before you cook them. Fat is concentrated on the belly, the middle of the back, the line along the sides, and under the skin.
- Cooking does not destroy the contaminants, but heat from cooking melts some of the fat and allows some of the contaminated fat to drain away. Broil, grill, or bake the trimmed, skinned fish on a rack so the fat drips away. Throw away the fat that comes from cooking fish.



# Fish - 2006 WV Consumption Advisories

Water Body	Species	Limit your fish meals to:	Contaminants*
<b>All Waters in West Virginia</b> <i>except where listed in the specific advisories at right</i>	<b>Black Bass less than 12"</b> <i>(largemouth, smallmouth, spotted)</i>	2 meals a month	Mercury* PCBs
	<b>Brown Trout</b>		
	<b>Channel Catfish greater than 17"</b>		
	<b>Flathead Catfish</b>		
	<b>Sauger</b>		
	<b>All Suckers</b>		
	<b>Black Bass greater than 12"</b> <i>(largemouth, smallmouth, spotted)</i>	1 meal a month	
	<b>Walleye</b>		
	<b>Saugeye</b>		
	<b>White Bass</b>		
	<b>Hybrid Striped Bass</b>		
	<b>Rainbow Trout</b>	No Limit	
	<b>Channel Catfish less than 17"</b>	1 meal a week	
<b>All Other Species</b>			

## How to use this advisory

Follow the advice presented in this regulation, noting the differences between the General Advisories for all West Virginia waters and the Specific Advisories. Find the meal advice for the fish you've caught. "Do Not Eat" means no one should eat those fish because of very high contamination. The other groups ("One Meal a Week", "Two meals a Month", "One Meal a Month", and "Six Meals a Year") are advice for how often to eat a fish meal. The size of the fish meal depends on your body weight. To adjust serving sizes, follow the advice in the meal size table.

Women of childbearing age, children and people who regularly eat fish are particularly susceptible to contaminants that build up over time. If you fall into one of these categories, you should be especially careful to follow the meal sizes and space fish meals out according to the advisory tables.

Your body can get rid of some contaminants over time. Spacing the meals out helps prevent the contaminants from building up to harmful levels in the body. For example, if the fish you eat is in the "One Meal a Month Group", wait a month before eating another meal of fish from any restricted category. Occasionally eating fish in quantities slightly greater than the advisories recommend, such as during an annual fishing vacation, should not present a health hazard.

Meal Sizes	
A person weighing between	should eat no more than this amount per meal
pounds	ounces of precooked fish
20 or less	1.0
21-35	1.5
36-50	2.0
51-70	3.0
71-90	4.0
91-110	5.0
111-130	6.0
131-150	7.0
151 and over	8.0
Remember that 3.0 ounces of precooked fish is about the size of the palm of your hand or a deck of cards	
Remember that 1.5 ounces of precooked fish is about one-half the size of the palm of your hand or one-half the size of a deck of cards	

## For Additional Information:

The advisory listing was current at the time this summary went to press. Other fish consumption advisories may have been issued or lifted since that time. Notice of such actions has been released to the public through press releases. For further information or the most current advice contact:

**WVDHHR:** (304) 558-2981 • [www.wvdhhr.org/fish](http://www.wvdhhr.org/fish)

**WVDNR:** (304) 558-2771 • [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov)

**WVDEP:** (304) 926-0495 • [www.wvdep.org](http://www.wvdep.org)

**USEPA:** [epa.gov/ost/fish](http://epa.gov/ost/fish)

# 2006 WV Consumption Advisories - Fish

Specific Advisories - species not listed below can be eaten as indicated at left.

Water Body	Species	Limit your fish meals to:	Contaminants*
Flat Fork Creek	Carp	Do not eat	*PCBs
	Channel Catfish, all sizes		
	Suckers		
Hughes River	Sauger	1 meal a month	*Mercury
Kanawha River <i>downstream of I-64 bridge in Dunbar including: all backwaters, Armour Creek, Heizer Creek, Manila Creek, Pocatalico River (lower two miles)</i>	Flathead Catfish, all sizes	Do not eat	Dioxin* Mercury PCBs
	Channel Catfish, all sizes		
	Carp		
	Hybrid Striped Bass		
	Suckers	1 meal a month	
All other species			
Kanawha River <i>upstream of I-64 bridge in Dunbar</i>	Channel Catfish less than 17"	2 meals a month	Mercury PCBs*
Meadow River	Rock Bass	2 meals a month	Mercury*
Middle Island Creek	Spotted Bass less than 12"	1 meal a month	Mercury* PCBs
Monongahela River	Channel Catfish all sizes	6 meals a year	PCBs*
Potomac River <i>main stem</i>	All non-game fish	Do not eat	Dioxin*
North Branch of Potomac River	All non-game fish	Do not eat	Dioxin*
North Fork of South Branch of Potomac River	Rock Bass	2 meals a month	Mercury*
South Fork of South Branch of Potomac River	Smallmouth Bass less than 12"	1 meal a month	Mercury*
	Sunfish	2 meals a month	
Ohio River <i>entire length in WV</i>	Carp	Do not eat	Dioxin Mercury PCBs*
	Channel Catfish greater than 17"		
	Channel Catfish less than 17"	6 meals a year	
	Flathead Catfish, all sizes		
	Drum	1 meal a month	
R. D. Bailey Lake	Channel Catfish greater than 17"	6 meals a year	PCBs*
Shenandoah River	Carp	Do not eat	Mercury PCBs*
	Channel Catfish greater than 17"		
Sleepy Creek Lake	Yellow Bullhead	2 meals a month	Mercury*
Wheeling Creek	Smallmouth Bass less than 12"	1 meal a month	Mercury*

\*Contaminant: Meal Limits are determined by the chemical with the asterisk. Other listed chemicals would have an advisory at a less restrictive level.

PCBs: Polychlorinated Biphenyls

# Fish - Sport Fish Identification

**Game Fish Defined:** The following are game fish - bluegill, black bass (largemouth, smallmouth, spotted), rock bass, striped bass, white bass, channel catfish, flathead catfish, chain pickerel, crappie, muskellunge, northern pike, sauger, brook trout, brown trout, golden rainbow trout, rainbow trout, walleye, other sunfish and all game fish hybrids.

*Paintings by Duane Raver.*



Bluegill



Largemouth Bass



Smallmouth Bass



Spotted Bass



Rock Bass



Striped Bass



Hybrid-striped Bass



White Bass



Carp



Bullhead Catfish



Channel Catfish



Flathead Catfish



Chain Pickerel



Muskellunge



Tiger Musky



Northern Pike



Sauger



Walleye



Black Crappie



White Crappie



Fallfish



Freshwater Drum



Yellow Perch



Brook Trout



Brown Trout



Golden Rainbow Trout



Rainbow Trout